

in fermi levels between the row gate and the shield - implying these two conductors have the same fermi level. These structures appear to be the same in formation and operation as the "row gate" 88 and "shield" 90 taught at Col 5, lines 5-9 and cited by the Examiner as anticipating the invention.

Since Melen does not teach or suggest gates with different fermi levels, nor does it teach or suggest gates with different fermi levels in the context of the other limitations of the independent claim 25, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of record of claims 25, 30, 32, and 35 have been traversed.

In the Office Action, claims 28, 29, 31, 33, and 34 stand rejected as being unpatentable in view of Melen. In response, Applicants have cancelled claims 31 and 33. Applicants respectfully submit that Melen does not obviate claims 28, 29, and 34 for the reasons set forth above, since all of these claims draw their dependency from claim 25. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of record of claims 28, 29, and 34 have been traversed.

Finally, in the Office Action, claims 26 and 27 stand objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. However, since the base claim in question is claim 25, and since claim 25 has been distinguished from Melen as set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 26 and 27 are allowable in their current, dependent form. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the objections of record of claims 26 and 27 have been traversed.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of the present Amendment and passage of their subject application to issuance in view thereof. Should the Examiner have any comments,

questions, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number and/or email address set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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